

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EFFINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 8pm ON TUESDAY 26 JANUARY 2010
AT KING GEORGE V HALL, BROWN'S LANE, EFFINGHAM**

PRESENT

Cllr Pindar in the Chair
Cllrs Clark, Crouch, Driscoll, Hogger, Jones, Lightfoot, Nicholls, Symes and Wetenhall.
Cllr Bill Barker
10 local government electors

13.10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Hogger (at a GBC Planning Meeting during the early part of the Agenda); Cllr Barker.

14.10 REGISTER OF INTERESTS AND DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllrs Pindar and Jones declared personal interests relating to 09/P/02004 Ranmore Manor, Crocknorth Road.
Cllr Pindar declared a prejudicial interest in item 23.10 (allotment rentals).

15.10 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 20 OCTOBER 2009

These were agreed to be a true record and signed.

16.10 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (not elsewhere on the Agenda)

None.

17.10 POLICE AND SAFETY

PCSO's report

PCSO Culross reported the following crime statistics:

December – 4 crimes, comprising 1 theft of a vehicle (later recovered), 1 house burglary, 1 domestic assault, 1 domestic assault involving drugs.

January – 4 crimes, comprising thefts (making off without paying), 2 thefts of lead (St Lawrence Church and a house on Effingham Common Road) and 1 burglary to a business. The snow had not led to any special demands on the police (but there were very few crimes!).

Cllr Clark asked how many criminals were caught, and PCSO Culross explained that some had been, but not the lead thieves.

Cllr Jones raised the question of obstructive parking during recent Sunday rugby and football games. The cones had been put out but were moved; PCSO Culross confirmed that no-one should move cones except the marshalls. Cllr Pindar reported that the levels of parking in The Street had gone up and visibility was a problem.

Members of the public present asked whether these were normal levels of crime and PCSO Culross explained that in fact the incidence of crime was dropping, and Cllr Nicholls confirmed this had been the effect of having the PCSOs, from 17 years of experience.

18.10 PLANNING MATTERS

New applications

09/P/02004 Ranmore Manor, Crocknorth Road

Retrospective application for change of use of garage/yard to a breakers yard.

Several objections had been submitted relating to this application. The Chairman allowed members of the audience to describe the situation as they were experiencing it. From personal knowledge Cllr Nicholls confirmed their version of land use in the area. It was agreed the Parish Council will object on grounds of: uncharacteristic of the location – the area had become predominantly residential and the reintroduction of an open-air heavy engineering-type enterprise is inappropriate; the visual impact is inappropriate for the setting in the AONB; the visual amenity of pedestrians on the Rights of Way network is affected; the size of the plot was not sufficient for the activities being carried on there; basic sanitation facilities and amenities of the site were inadequate for the business being carried on there; lorries were reversing out onto the highway because there was not room to turn, which is dangerous. It was agreed also to comment that there are reports of environmental damage to neighbouring land.

09/P/02103 Upper Leewood Farm, Effingham Common Road

Detached two storey five bedroom dwelling with linked double garage following demolition of existing dwelling and garage

There were queries about how the figures for the proposed footprint and floorspace had been worked out, and concerns that it was a very large expansion on the existing; also about whether the sort of buildings being demolished could be considered associated domestic structures. It was agreed to

SM

ask the Planning Officer for more information and re-consider when this had been received. It was noted that the proposed site was on slightly higher ground which might make it more visible and visually intrusive; agreed therefore to ask that if consent was to be given, consideration be given to a landscaping condition requiring planting of mature trees to screen it along the Effingham Common Road boundary.

SM

10/P/00032 Little Court, Beech Ave

Installation of two entrance gates.

It was agreed to object, referring the Planning Officer to previous refusals for similar requests along Beech Avenue, the reason being to avoid opening up more gaps in the avenue. Objections were also consistently raised to gates, which were uncharacteristic of the rural lane and changed the nature of the location.

SM

10/P/00051 7 Leewood Way

Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, front porch and detached single garage following demolition of existing garage
No comment.

10/T/00003 Land at Upper Leewood Farm, Effingham Common Road

Group of deciduous trees, predominantly Oak (Group A1) – crown lift one side of trees fronting Effingham Common Road to enable renewal of fence

It was agreed to object on the basis it was not clear which trees within this TPO area were affected by the proposal. It was felt to be undesirable to crown lift half of a tree. Some of the boughs on the main oak trees are very low, and insufficient data had been provided about the height/extent of the proposed work. It was agreed to comment that a second fence-line inside the first might protect the trees better.

SM

Results / progress on previous planning applications

09/P/00889 Oldlands Dene, Outdowns (CLEUD)	Allowed subj. to conditions
09/P/01505 Badgers Farm (bungalow)	Approved
09/P/01531 The Surgery, The Street	Approved
09/P/01896 Rustlings, Lower Farm Rd (lantern)	Approved
09/P/01700 Rowan Tree Cottage, Effingham Common Rd	Approved
09/P/01771 Sorrel, Lower Farm Road	Approved
09/P/01787 Rydons Mead, Lower Farm Road	Approved
09/P/01798 Badgers Farm (condition 7)	Approved

Other planning matters

Application to register 'Bookham Fields' as a village green

This green area had long served to help separate the built up areas of Effingham and the Bookhams. Cllr Nicholls had visited the site. He explained that it was clearly used by many people as a genuine amenity and in his opinion justified the attempt to claim it as a village green. Other Councillors agreed they knew of Effingham people using the site for recreation or walking. It was agreed to write with strong support for the proposal.

SM

Representation at the forthcoming South East Plan First Partial Review Examination in Public

Information about the format of the day was not yet very forthcoming but Cllr Hogger will attend this on behalf of the Parish Council.

LH

Elmbridge Borough Council's Core Strategy – proposed submission to Secretary of State

Cllr Lightfoot will read this document to check for items of relevance to Effingham

AL

Reports and correspondence relating to other Planning matters:

Newmarsh Farm

GBC Enforcement Officer Josie Smith had confirmed she would be following up compliance with the Inspector's recent decisions.

09/P/01972 Greenboughs, Heath View

East Horsley PC had sent a copy of their objection to this application.

The Vineries Nursery

Possible breach of environmental controls at the Water Lane end of the site had been reported to GBC.

09/P/01755 The Long Barn, High Barn Road

This application will go to the Planning Committee on 16 February. Cllr Wetenhall will attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

JW

19.10 VILLAGE GREEN SPACES AND AMENITIES

Current GSVa matters

Cllr Hogger arrived during the following item

Chairman's Annual Report and Annual Parish Meeting

Proposals for possible changes had been circulated.

Annual Report:

The list of topics was broadly liked. It was suggested that the report explain that the precept has been cut to the bone in order to support the new EVRT Trust for this year, but that no money has been set aside for anything else. Cllr Symes thought a section on the Common, and the work the Friends had achieved, should be included; also that the Parish Council is trying to improve communications. Cllr Hogger thought there should be an update about the Forest Road bridge (HGVs and speed limits).

Annual Meeting:

The idea of a speaker was welcomed (30-40 mins); Cllr Pindar can invite a speaker on Contingency Planning in Cumbria (working with communities before the event). Also refreshments. It would be better to avoid school holidays in future.

AP
SM

Sub-committee to liaise with EVRT Trustees over future grant funding

Cllrs Pindar, Hogger, Nicholls and Jones will form the sub-committee.

LH
MJ
JN
AP

Forward planning of the Parish Precept

It was agreed that a fairly informal meeting should start this process of deciding what the Parish Council would like to do over the longer term. Cllr Pindar thought it should be facilitated; Cllr Hogger thought ERRA should be invited; others suggested were the WI, EVRT and the Friends of the Common. 22 or 25 February are possible dates – Clerk to confirm.

SM

Additional salt/grit bins

The recent snow had caused many problems for residents who could not get out of the side roads. GBC would make available additional bins, and store them during summer, if wished. There was discussion about the practicalities of different sizes and costs of bins. It was agreed that all Parish Councillors will think about where they would site additional bins around the parish, so the likely number needed can be agreed.

ALL

Reports on GSVa matters

Howard Foundation Trust

The meeting with the Head and Governors had to be postponed. Cllr Hogger is trying to re-book.

LH

20.10 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Current Highways and Transport matters

Purchase of Effingham village boundary signs

It was agreed not to pursue the purchase of additional signs. However with regard to the eastern boundary signing on the A246, it was agreed that SCC were under a duty to maintain this and should replace it at their expense.

SM

Representation at a forthcoming Traffic Commission Public Inquiry

The Clerk reported that GBC intended to send an officer to support SCC, so there was no need for a member of Effingham Parish Council to go except for interest. The Traffic Commissioner's office had lost information about the previous refusal of consent. Efforts to find a record were being made.

Reports and correspondence relating to Highways matters

Flooding of footway, Effingham Junction Station

This problem is severe again and has been reported.

Speed limit signage and white lining for junction safety, Orestan Lane and Calvert Road

GBC has designed a scheme and is taking this up with SCC.

Speed limit, Dirtham Lane

The Parish Council's objection to errors in the published Notice has led to an angry response from SCC Highways officers, who now consider they have to hold the issue back to the Guildford Local Committee in March and re-advertise.

Centre marking, Effingham Common Road

Cllr Driscoll pointed out that the Parish Council has asked PCSO Culross to press for the centre-line markings on Effingham Common Road to be repainted correctly to match the speed limit, since the Police say that they otherwise cannot enforce against speeding. He asked Cllr Barker to help press Highways for this.

21.10 REPORTS

Allotments

The Clerk reported that rental requests had been sent out; approx. 5 names on the waiting list.

Schools

Cllr Hogger will ask Gill Walker if she would be willing to provide updates.

LH

EVRT

Cllr Jones reported that the questionnaire for residents is ready for distribution, which ERRRA will do. Some questionnaires are coded for area. A potential Treasurer has attended a meeting and is still interested. He will meet the current Treasurer and hopefully his name will then be put forward to the Parish Council at the next meeting.

Home Farm Estate

Cllr Hogger and the Clerk had attended a very difficult meeting at GBC. Cllr Hogger reported that GBC is now definitely proceeding with repossession of three plots of land on Chester Road, but there were still concerns over the timescale and the Head of Service will be approached if the information requested was not forthcoming. GBC had been unco-operative over the question of HGVs parking in the lay-by and using it as a base for scrap dealing. The Protection of Home Farm Co-ordinating Committee has met again.

Friends of Effingham Common

Cllr Symes reported that there will be a sub-committee meeting in the following week.

Smith's Charity

Cllr Driscoll reported that the vast majority of Christmas vouchers had been used in the local shops.

Local Government / Admin matters

Requests for new insurance quotations (ie for end March) have been sent out. The change of bank signatory form has arrived for completion, and also an SCC pension form summarising payment over the year. The Parish Council e-mail address will need to be up-dated, as foreseen and provided for. All pictures for the Parish Room are now framed and ready to hang. The missing green cloth has not re-appeared and the Clerk will have to find and buy 3 new ones.

SM

22.10 CORRESPONDENCE

East Horsley PC

Minutes and Agenda for meeting of 25 January; request for donations to campaign to buy a piece of land near The Drift, to preserve it from pressure for development

GBC

Agenda and Papers for Standards and Audit Committee, 20 January including Annual Audit letter

Agenda and papers for Planning Committee, 26 January

About Guildford, including an article on Effingham resident Sarah de Carvalho

Surrey Community Action

Newsletter, winter 2009-10, including news of Surrey's new credit union, the success the Bookhams Community Association in raising money for upkeep of the Barn Hall, and the Greening of the Horsleys initiative (sustainability, not tree-planting)

Surrey Hills AONB

Annual Review 2009
Management Plan Executive Summary 2009-14

Clerks & Councils Direct

Newsletter

The Clerk

Newsletter Jan 10

NALC

DIS 725

23.10 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Current matters

Future allotment rentals

Cllr Pindar vacated the chair for this item and did not take part in the discussion. Cllr Symes chaired.

Cllrs Clark and Jones had circulated a report in which they proposed a rise in allotment rentals of £15

for a half plot and £25 for a full plot. The Clerk had advised that she saw problems with this. The proposal was not based on a like-for-like comparison with allotment facilities in similar locations. There is no relevant concept of 'fair rent' based on the 'value of the land' because there is a duty on the Parish Council to provide allotment land while demand exists; this land is therefore unavailable for other uses indefinitely and accordingly is valued at £1 in the Parish Council asset register. The proposed rises are unequally applied to different sizes of plot, with the smaller ones having the bigger rise. 75% of the money currently generated by the allotments is surplus. No projects requiring expenditure, or commitment to regular maintenance incurring costs, are planned. It will only raise £160. The extra amount allotment holders would be expected to find for the Parish Council is out of all proportion to the rise for other residents via the precept. The Parish Council voted to bring in the proposed rises when rents are next due, September 2010.

Quarterly bank reconciliation

This was approved.

To note progress on staff appraisal

The Clerk withdrew during this discussion. It was agreed the Chair would forward comments received.

AP

Cheques for approval and signature

The following cheques were authorised and signed:

		Authority to pay
Phone Co-op	28.13	Local Govt Act 1972 s.111
EDF Electricity	167.04	Local Govt Act 1972 s.133
KGV	5000.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s.133

24.10 PARISH BUSINESS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 23 February 2010.